



Forest
Service

Alaska Region
Tongass National Forest
Yakutat
Ranger District

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File Code: 1950-1
Route To:

Date: April 6, 2020

Subject: Yakutat Ranger District Moose Habitat Enhancement Project Request for Public Comment

To: All Interested Parties

The Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Yakutat Ranger district, is seeking public comment on a moose habitat enhancement project to occur on the Yakutat forelands. This notice initiates a 30-day comment period for this action. The purpose of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide meaningful input on a proposed action implementing a land and resource management plan prior to a decision by a responsible official.

While the current Yakutat area moose population seems to be stable, moose habitat is declining as natural succession occurs. The purpose of this project is to maintain or increase the willow component of habitat at accessible sites on the Yakutat forelands in order to enhance moose foraging habitat. The proposed project includes 32 areas totaling 659 acres of habitat for potential treatment (see enclosed maps). Selected sites would be treated by clearing most or all vegetation to within approximately 30 cm (~ 1 foot) above ground. Initial treatment methods would be limited to hand crews with chain saws on a small number of test plots (5-10 acres each). Heavy machinery (i.e. hydroaxe or other similar equipment) at suitable sites may be considered pending initial results from the pilot work. Treatments are expected to occur over the next ten years (e.g. 2021-2031), pending availability of funding.

The Tongass National Forest will consider the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and may be categorically excluded under 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6), Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction. Additional project documentation is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57393>.

Please submit your comments by May 20, 2020. Comments can be emailed to comments-alaska-tongass-yakutat@usda.gov, or mailed to Lee Benson, Yakutat District Ranger, PO Box 327, Yakutat, AK 99689.

For additional project information, please contact Susan Oehlers at (907) 784-3359 or susan.oehlers@usda.gov.

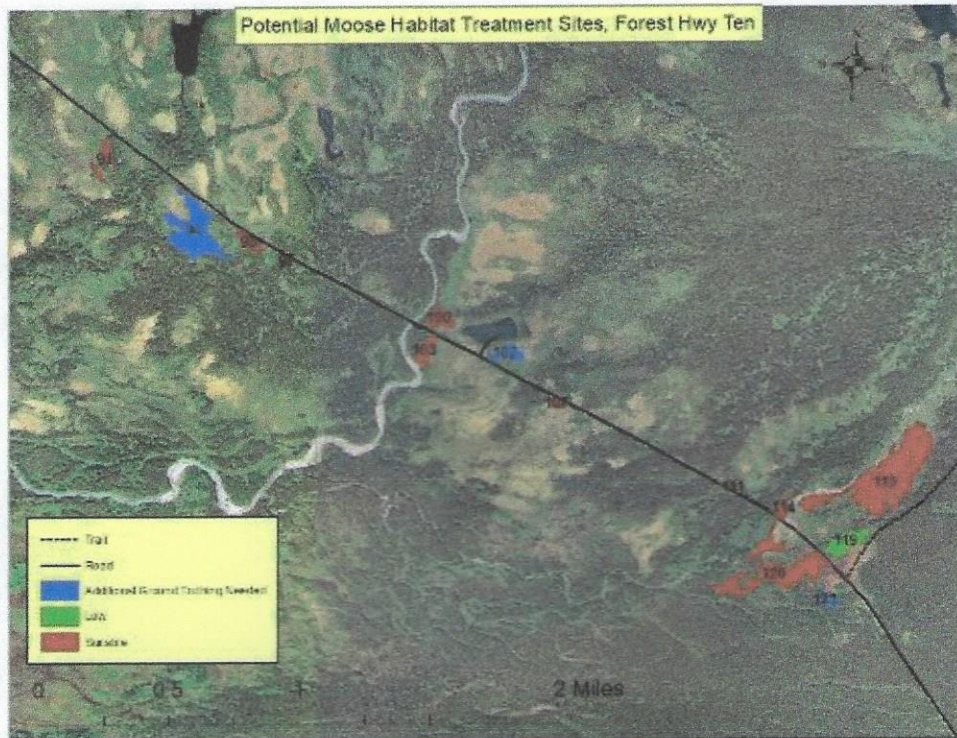
Lee A. Benson
Yakutat District Ranger



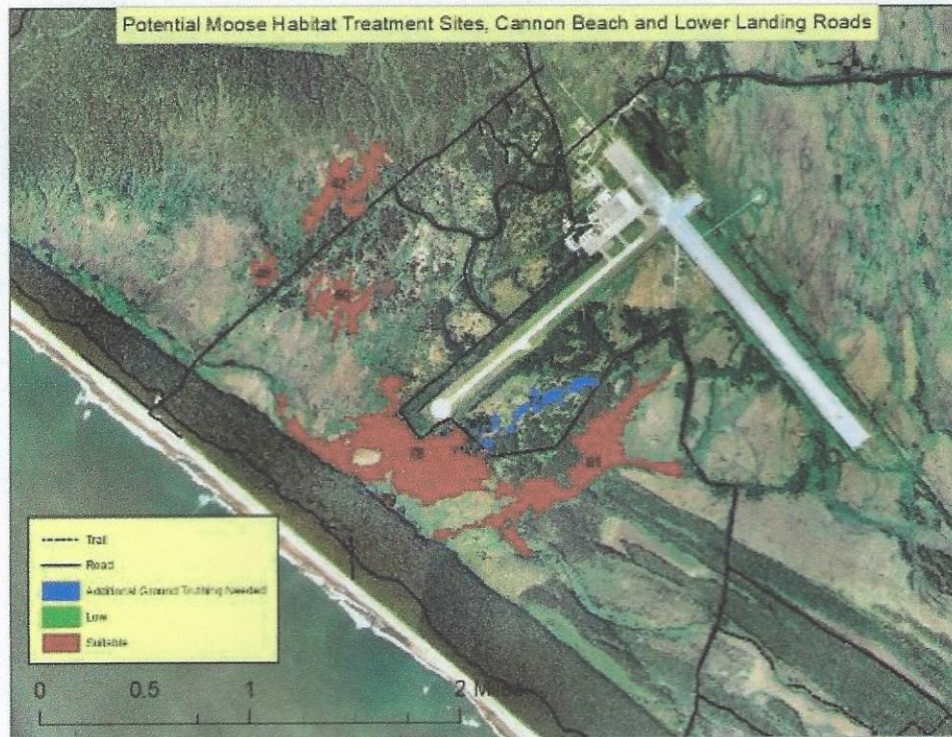
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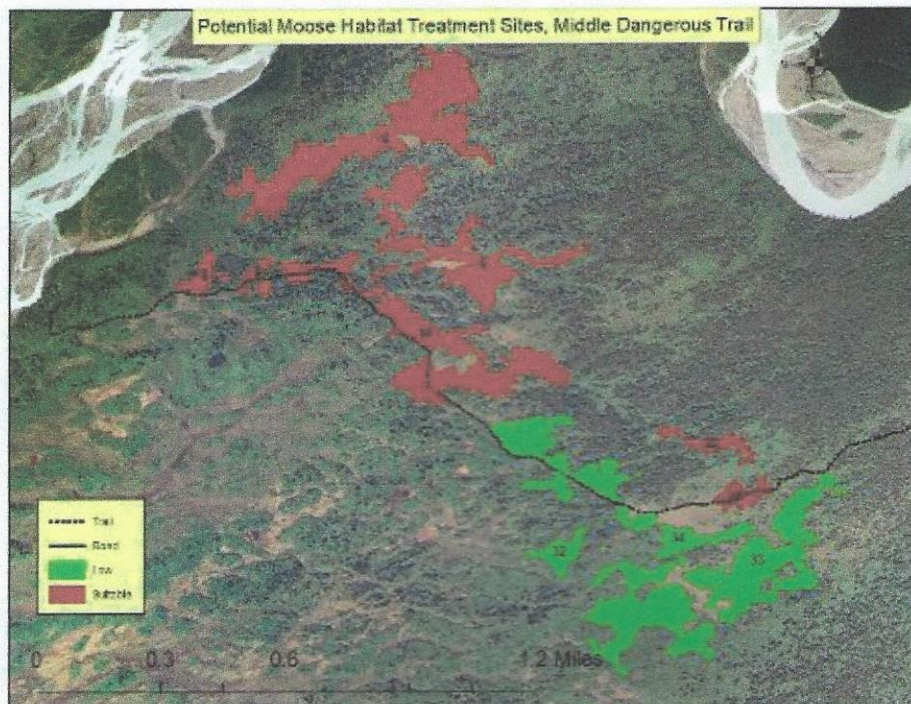




Sites identified for potential moose habitat treatment along Forest Highway 10.



Sites identified for potential moose habitat treatment along Cannon Beach and Lower Situk Landing roads. Includes non-federal (State of Alaska) lands.



Sites identified for potential moose habitat treatment near Middle Dangerous Trail.